

Hampton Greenhouse No. One
535 Hampton Lane
Southwest of Hampton Mansion
Hampton National Historic Site
Towson
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-D

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PHOTOGRAPH
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-D

HAMPTON GREENHOUSE No. ONE

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, southwest of Hampton Mansion,
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park
Service

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of
Significance: This greenhouse structure provided for the mainte-
nance of the Hampton gardens.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which Greenhouse No. One was built had been acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: The greenhouse was built between 1843 and 1877.
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Construction information: The Ridgely family account books have minor greenhouse entries in the early 1850's which may relate to the construction of Greenhouse No. One. In 1854, W. J. Powell was paid for glazing a greenhouse and William Meakin was paid for work on a greenhouse.
 5. Alterations and additions: It appears that the structure has been heavily altered. The wall between the two spaces in the structure has been repeatedly patched and various openings have been closed. The actual structure supporting the glazing over the seedling beds is probably a modern Lord and Burnham greenhouse as is the case of Greenhouse No. Two (HABS No. MD-226-U).
 6. Important old views: This structure is not located on the 1843 plat of the estate and is located on the 1877 Hopkins Map of Hampton.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: See the historical data and Site and Surroundings for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A). Also, see the historical data for the Hampton Orangery (HABS No. MD-226-R).
- C. Sources of Information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's typescript "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section on Rehabilitation of Greenhouses, Hampton National Historic Site," 1966.
 2. Secondary and published sources: Charles E. Peterson's Notes on Hampton Mansion contains a section on the gardens of Hampton.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The one-story greenhouse, built into the slope of the terrain, has a rectangular structure appended to the base of an ell-shaped seedling and potting bed structure.
2. Condition of the fabric: The building is abandoned and is deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure is 94'-7" long and 33'-9" wide. The south extension of the ell-shaped structure is 24'-9" wide and the north extension is 15'-10" wide.
2. Foundations: The foundations, which are inaccessible, are probably stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The masonry wall construction is of coursed rubble and ashlar stone, brick, and brick and stone, 15" to 18" thick. In general, the stone walls extend approximately 3'-6" above the floor level. The brick walling above the interior wall between the two main spaces is perforated with numerous closed openings with flat brick arches, wood and iron lintels, wood plates, and wood joist pockets.
4. Structural system: The stone bearing walls support the roof glazing frames, which are wood.
5. Porches: Areaways with stone retaining walls and brick and marble steps are located at the southwest and southeast elevations respectively.
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The existing wood frame doorways have doors which are glazed.
 - b. Windows and shutters: None
8. Roof: The shed roofed smaller appending southwest structure has a modern felt roof and a plain board fascia. The roof

over the ell-shaped structure is gabled and glazed including the gable ends. A glazed shed roof structure is located at the southeast entrance.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The large ell-shaped structure has a smaller room doubling the depth of the base.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: The small area has an earth floor while the seedling bed area is brick paved.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are exposed masonry, though there are fragments of plaster. The ceilings are exposed roof structure and glazing.
5. Doors and doorways: A small wood door is nailed shut between the two main spaces.
6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: None
7. Hardware: Typical mid-nineteenth century door hardware fragments survive.
8. Mechanical equipment: It appears that at one time the building was heated with a hot water boiler located in the small appending room.

- D. Site and Surroundings: Greenhouse No. One extends approximately 135° southwest from the south elevation of Greenhouse No. Two. It is located between that structure and the Carriage House (HABS No. MD-226-P) adjacent to the "falls" of Hampton garden's second parterre.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (Uni-

versity of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.